

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

December 8, 2014

Mr. Parry Klassen
Executive Director
Central Coast Groundwater Coalition
P.O. Box 828
Salinas, CA 93902
pklassen@unwiredbb.com

Sent via Electronic Mail

Dear Mr. Klassen,

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM – EXECUTIVE OFFICER APPROVAL OF CENTRAL COAST GROUNDWATER COALITION'S OCTOBER 9, 2014 PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE MEMBER INFORMATION TO THE CENTRAL COAST WATER BOARD

As individual growers and the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition (CCGC) implement the groundwater monitoring requirements of the Agricultural Order R3-2012-0011 and State Board Order WQ-2013-0101, sampling results indicate that many domestic drinking water wells exceed the safe drinking water standard for nitrate. Due to the severity and urgency of the health issues associated with drinking groundwater with high concentrations of nitrate, the requirement to notify well users of these exceedances is a top priority of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

At the Central Coast Water Board meeting on November 13, 2014, Board Members concurred with staff's recommendation for the Executive Officer to approve the CCGC proposal submitted on October 9, 2014 to require the CCGC to submit supplemental information regarding CCGC members in order to verify proper drinking water notifications. Board Members also agreed with staff's recommendation to maintain the requirement for CCGC to provide copies of individual drinking water notification letters upon request, as required in the December 17, 2013 work plan approval letter. Additionally, the Board also discussed various ways to improve the CCGC drinking water notification process related to drinking water follow-up actions and follow-up notifications in the future.

This letter approves the proposal submitted by the CCGC on October 9, 2014 and amends the Central Coast Water Board's approval of the CCGC work plan documented in letters dated July 11, 2013, December 17, 2013 and December 18, 2013 (attached), with the following specific conditions described below:

1. **By December 15, 2014, the CCGC must provide a relational key**, which will include the CCGC Member ranch-specific Global ID and the associated CCGC Field Point Name (individual well identification) for all groundwater wells sampled by the CCGC in compliance with the Agricultural Order (Order R3-2012-0011). Please provide the relational key as a

table (pdf format) with two columns (Ranch-Specific Global ID and CCGC Field Point Name).

2. **By December 22, 2014, the CCGC must provide a Final CCGC Exceedance Notification Follow-Up Report.** The Exceedance Notification Follow-Up Reports must comprehensively identify all wells sampled by the CCGC with exceedances of the nitrate drinking water standard.

The CCGC must amend its Exceedance Notification Follow-Up Report format to include the information described in the attachment to the October 9, 2014 proposal (manner of notification, any follow-up action to ensure safe drinking water, etc.). The information should be presented in order of timing of the various activities. In addition, the notification date and manner of notification must be provided for all CCGC member wells with exceedances of the drinking water standard and used for domestic purposes. The CCGC must also include the Final CCGC Exceedance Notification Follow-Up Report as an appendix to the Final Characterization Report for the northern and southern counties.

3. **Effective immediately, CCGC must ensure that users receive a written notification of drinking water exceedances. For any drinking water exceedances where the users have only received prior verbal notification, the CCGC must follow-up with the members to ensure that users receive a written notification that the drinking water exceeds safe levels for nitrate.** CCGC must also conduct annual follow-up to ensure that users continue to be properly notified of drinking water exceedances and to confirm any follow-up action to ensure safe drinking water. CCGC must submit annual updated notification information for each drinking water well exceedance showing that for those users that are new in the last 12 months, written notification has taken place.
4. **Effective immediately, CCGC representatives must bring copies of all drinking water notification letters to the quarterly CCGC/Water Board Coordination meetings for inspection by Water Board staff.** CCGC must inform their members that Water Board staff is conducting site visits with landowners/operators enrolled in the Agricultural Order to verify proper drinking water notifications and staff may request to view a copy of the drinking water notification letter in cases where there is a drinking water exceedance.

Staff finds that the required information will ensure that the Water Board can efficiently and effectively identify the landowner/operator associated with the wells included in exceedance reports and thereby verify that proper drinking water notification of users has occurred by conducting follow-up.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact **Hector Hernandez at (805) 542-4641** or via e-mail at Hhernandez@waterboards.ca.gov, or Angela Schroeter at (805) 542-4644 or via e-mail at: Aschroeter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Harris Jr.
Executive Officer

Attachments

1. Central Coast Water Board's Approval of Central Coast Cooperative Groundwater Program, dated July 11, 2013
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/gr_ouundwater/2ccgc_workplan_approval_071113.pdf
2. Central Coast Water Board's Conditioned Work Plan Approval letter to the Coalition, dated December 17, 2013 for the Northern Counties
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/gr_ouundwater/3ccgc_workplan_approval_121713.pdf
3. Coast Water Board's Conditioned Work Plan Approval letter to the Coalition, dated December 18, 2013 for the Southern Counties
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/gr_ouundwater/4ccgc_workplan_approval_121813.pdf

cc

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